Crop loss due to hailstorm and showers in M.P.

†2881. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the heavy losses caused to the crops by hailstorm and showers in March, 2006 in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details of grant given to farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Central assistance in the wakeof hailstcrm/rains, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in the State for assessment of damage, including damage to crops. This will now be considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the Agricultural Minister, for a decision on the quantum of assistance to the Stale Government.

Drought assistance to Himachal Pradesh

2882. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several regions of Himachal Pradesh, such as Una, Hamirpur, Kangra and Bilaspur districts have been in the grip of severe drought since last year;

(b) whether the State is being considered for any help; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Himachal Pradesh have neither reported drought in any part of the State nor sought any Central assistance for drought relief, during last year and so far this year.

Opening/closing of subsidiary companies by NDDB

†2883. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development (NDDB) has opened or closed a number of subsidiary companies during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether NDDB had obtained prior approval from Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Immunologicals Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of NDDB incorporated Indiagen Ltd. as its subsidiary in November, 2004. Also, in the Mother Dairy group of companies, in august, 2004 Mother Dairy Delhi Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy IndiaLtd. and Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selling milk and milk products by NDDB

†2884. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has stopped selling milk and milk products of the State Dairy Federations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether it is in the interest of the farmers; and

(c) if so, in what manner this benefit will reach the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Interest free loans and suicides

2885. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals to provide interest free loans to agriculturists for specified crop period, to help the farmers boost up growth, without being placed in situations where they are driven to commit suicides; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.